

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (withdrawn/currently amended) A method of forming the resin bonded rare earth magnet of claim 11, comprising:

providing the magnet body by compression molding the first thermosetting resin and the particles of the rare earth-transition metal alloy powder having the particle size between 20 to 300 microns;

directly filling a mixture of the filling material with the particle size between 0.1 and 15 microns and the powdered thermosetting resin in depressions between the particles of the metal alloy powder and heat curing the powdered thermosetting resin to fix the filling material in the depressions such that the surface of the filled magnetic body has a surface roughness of less than 3 microns; and applying the corrosion inhibiting coat to the surface of the filled magnetic body.

Claims 9 and 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (previously presented) A resin bonded rare earth magnet comprising:

(a) a magnet body formed by compression molding a mixture of a first thermosetting resin and a rare earth-transition metal alloy powder having a particle size of between 20 and 300 microns such that the magnet body comprises powdered magnetic particles comprising the rare earth-transition metal alloy powder, said magnet body comprising a surface having depressions

and projections;

(b) a filling material with a particle size of between 0.1 and 15 microns selectively fixed by a second thermosetting resin to the surface of the magnet body only in the depressions so as to cause the surface of the magnet body with the filling material to be smoother than the surface of the magnet body without the filling material, the surface of the magnet body with the filling material having a surface roughness of less than 3 microns; and

(c) a corrosion inhibiting coat comprising a synthetic resin covering the surface of the magnet body with first portions of the corrosion inhibiting coat in contact with the powdered magnetic particles and second portions of the corrosion inhibiting coat in contact with the filling material.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The resin bonded rare earth magnet according to claim 11 , wherein each of the first thermosetting resin and the second thermosetting resin is an epoxy resin.